

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00922 200905Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /020 W
-----200911Z 111084 /22

O 200655Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0692

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0922

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR DUBS FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: VOA COVERAGE OF INDIAN ELECTIONS

1. JAGAT MEHTA SPOKE TO ME VERY INFORMALLY LAST NIGHT EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT COVERAGE OF THE INDIAN ELECTIONS BY US CORRESPONDENTS WILL BE BALANCED. HE RECOGNIZES THAT MANY OF THE EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA IN WASHINGTON WILL COME FROM HOW THE PRESS COVERS THE ELECTIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT US CORRESPONDENTS WOULD, OF COURSE, REPORT WHAT THEY SAW AND I HOPED THE GOI WOULD FACILITATE THEIR ACCESS.

2. JAGAT'S CONCERN ABOUT BALANCE PARTICULARLY WORRIED ME THIS MORNING WHEN I HEARD THE MORNING VOA COVERAGE OF THE ELECTIONS. VOA'S ONLY COVERAGE REPORTED THAT INDIAN OPPOSITION LEADERS HAD REACTED NEGATIVELY TO MRS. GANDHI'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION. THE BRIEF STORY REPORTED THAT GEORGE FERNANDES HAD, IN A LETTER TO HIS COLLEAGUES, URGED THEM TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTION, SAYING IT "WOULD BE UTTERLY SUICIDAL FOR THE OPPOSITION TO TAKE PART." THE STORY QUOTED PILOO MODY AS SAYING HE WAS SURPRISED THAT ELECTIONS HAD BEEN CALLED WHILE POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE STILL IN JAIL. VOA FAILED TO INCLUDE COMMENTS, INCLUDING SOME FROM THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 00922 200905Z

OPPOSITION, WELCOMING THE ELECTIONS AND THE MAJOR EVENT OF THE DAY, THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

3. I KNOW THAT TEJA MONITORS VOA EVERY MORNING AND I FEAR JAGAT'S FIRST EXAMPLE OF LACK OF BALANCE MAY BE THE VOA ITSELF. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT VOA SHOULD REPORT ALL THE FACTS, HOWEVER UNVARNISHED, REGARDING THE COMING ELECTIONS.

BUT I BELIEVE BALANCE WAS LACKING IN THIS CASE AND VERY
MUCH HOPE IT CAN BE REGAINED IN FUTURE COVERAGE. I
CERTAINLY DON'T WISH TO QUESTION VOA'S INDEPENDENCE IN
COVERING THE NEWS. I HOPE IT WILL NOT MIND THIS COMMENT
ABOUT HOW COVERAGE COULD BE IMPROVED.
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE00922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0313
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770133/aaaabcos.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87e807d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3548206
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VOA COVERAGE OF INDIAN ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, IN, US, VOA, (MEHTA, JAGAT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87e807d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009